



## Settling the Score

Only July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1804, Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr settled their differences in a duel. Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel because he believed Hamilton had publicly disparaged him, smeared his reputation, and ultimately short-circuited his political ambitions. Hamilton could have refused the invitation, but instead, accepted! The duel was held on a bluff in Weehawken, New Jersey. Both men fired, but Burr's shot was deadly accurate. The next day Hamilton died from his wounds, and thus, one of the greatest political minds of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was gone. Burr, a great political mind as well, was ruined.

Duels were commonly employed among men in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries as honorable ways to avenge perceived acts of disrespect and often resulted in the injury or death of one or both men. Today, of course, settling differences in such a way would be unheard of. In the spaces provided below, describe a non-violent, productive way Aaron Burr could have expressed his frustration, and describe how Alexander Hamilton should have responded to the duel invitation issued by Burr.

What could have Aaron Burr done to express his frustration without having issued an invitation to duel?

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How could have Alexander Hamilton responded when invited to duel?

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